New refinery in Rajasthan

†804. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a new refinery in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas identified in Rajasthan by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Consequent on delicensing of refinery sector since June, 1998 a refinery is to be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprise depending on the promoter's assessment of its viability. The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has reported that it is exploring the techno-economic feasibility/viability of setting up of a well-head refinery for processing the crude oil discovered by the Joint Venture of Cairn Energy and ONGC in Rajasthan.

Automation of retail outlets

805. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Oil Corporation has launched the project of automation of retail outlets to monitor and check adulteration spurred by the tragic killing of IOC Sales Officer in Uttar Pradesh recently;

(b) whether the hitherto lax inventory control by oil companies has led to adulteration in large scale by blending of kerosene and naphtha with diesel and petrol respectively; and

(c) if so, how far the proposed automation of retail outlets will eliminate adulteration during transportation by fuel tankers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has launched the Retail Automation programme and completed automation in 72 retail outlets across the country. IOC plans

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to cover around 1000 retail outlets in the country under its automation programme during the current year *i.e.* 2006-07.

The automation system being provided at retail outlets is expected to facilitate better monitoring of the stocks, receipts and sales from the automated retail outlets, apart from other features like computerized billing etc. The system is expected to ensure efficient stock reconciliation on day-to-day basis thereby reducing the chances of unintended product being unloaded in the tanks at these retail outlets.

(b) While the possibility of adulteration of petrol/diesel by some unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out due to huge price difference between petrol/diesel and various adulterants available in the market and the easy miscibility of these products with petrol/diesel, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have taken a number of measures to contain adulteration.

(c) Alongwith the automation of Retail Outlets, IOC is also implementing Sealed Parcel Delivery System whereby tankers (TTs) carrying product from supply locations to retail outlets will be provided with electronic locks, which are capable of storing the data of all the opening and closing instances of the locks. This data will be captured at supply location and retail outlets. This will facilitate in identifying any unauthorized instances of opening and closing of the electronic locks midway and therefore, will greatly reduce the possibility of adulteration during transportation.

Promotion of higher use of ethanol

806. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to promote addition of a large percentage of ethanol in petrol to substantially reduce retail market prices of petrol in view of the facts that bio fuel like ethanol is suitable for use as petrol-mix by motor vehicles and that ethanol's production price is a fraction of petrol's retail price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) With a view to reducing dependence on imported oil by way of encouraging use of